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Plague was reported to you in Iquique some three weeks ago by Acting Assistant Surgeon Gruver. I have no further information on the subject.

An epidemic of smallpox is reported in Santiago, Chile.

*Bacteriological examination of rats from steamship Limari.*

CALLAO, May 9, 1904.

Owing at first to a lack of facilities I have not yet obtained confirmation of the provisional diagnosis of plague in the case of the rats on board the steamship *Limari*. Two animals died very promptly, one in five, a second in three days, from subcutaneous and dermic inoculation, respectively, showing typical gross lesions and typical organisms. I now have cultures which are apparently pure, but I have not observed them sufficiently to state positively that this is the case at present. I have little doubt as to the final result.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

*Reports from Manila—Quarantinable diseases—Cholera disappearing from the islands—Disinfection of vessel.*

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, May 5, as follows:

During the week ended April 23, 1904, the quarantinable diseases reported in Manila were as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Cholera.....	0	0
Smallpox.....	9	3
Plague.....	5	5

CHOLERA.

The continued absence of cholera is a source of great satisfaction to the health authorities of the islands. Only one suspected case was reported during the week, and this occurred at the military prison situated on Malahi Island in Laguna Lake. The history of the case suggested cholera, but, so far as I am aware, there was no bacteriological examination made. From the standpoint of affecting the general sanitary situation, the case is unimportant, because even if it should prove to be a true case of cholera the prison authorities would no doubt prevent any spread of the disease. The board of health feels so sanguine about the disappearance of the disease that they have removed all restrictions upon the sale of food stuffs, which were made with a view of preventing its spread.

SMALLPOX.

This disease is on the increase throughout the islands, and unless general vaccination is carried out it threatens to become a serious factor in the sanitary situation.

## PLAGUE.

The plague continues to show an improvement over that of last year. This year there were 5 cases and 5 deaths during the week, while during the same period last year there were 15 cases and 12 deaths. No further cases of plague have been reported as occurring in the provinces.

April 21, 1904, the steamer *Lyra* cleared for Tacoma with a full cargo of hemp. There were no passengers. The crew were inspected on board just prior to sailing.

*Islands declared free from cholera—Smallpox—Disinfection.*

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, May 6, as follows:

During the week ended April 30, 1904, the quarantinable diseases reported in Manila were as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Cholera .....	0	0
Smallpox .....	3	1
Plague .....	3	3

## CHOLERA.

The cholera situation has improved so much that the board of health has felt warranted in passing the following resolution:

Whereas cases of Asiatic cholera have occurred in but three provincial towns of the Philippine Islands since February 8, 1904; and

Whereas only one case of Asiatic cholera has been reported as occurring at any place in the Philippine Islands since March 8, 1904; and

Whereas the city of Manila was declared, on March 23, to be free from the infection of Asiatic cholera: On motion,

*Resolved*, That the islands comprising the Philippine Archipelago be and hereby are declared to be free from the infection of Asiatic cholera; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the commissioner of public health be directed to send a copy of these resolutions to the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, the municipal board, the collector of customs, and the United States Marine-Hospital Service.

## SMALLPOX.

The gradual spread of the smallpox is shown by the fact that two vessels arrived during the week upon which were found persons in the vesicular stage of the disease. The vessels were promptly remanded to the Mariveles Quarantine Station. The sick were placed in the station hospital, the passengers and crew bathed, their effects and the vessels disinfected, and all persons who could not present satisfactory evidence of recent and successful vaccination were placed in quarantine. One of the vessels, the steamer *Avante*, after thorough disinfection was released with such members of the crew as could show the Service vaccination cards and exhibit evidence of a recent successful vaccination. The value of vaccinating the entire number of persons engaged in the interisland shipping and properly recording such work was well illustrated by this vessel. In addition to the appearance of the vaccination mark, there was reliable documentary evidence made by the Service which showed when the vaccination was done and the result thereof. By this method, the vessel and crew